04-02-01

ny _ 18-01

Docket Number 4-31193A

FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

EL 835205426 US Express Mail Label Number

March 30, 2001

Date of Deposit

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

PIPPIG ET AL.

APPLICATION NO: TO BE ASSIGNED

FILED: MARCH 26, 2001

FOR: SELECTABLE MARKER GENES

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the first paragraph on page one of the specification by adding the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

a

The disclosure of this application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

A marked copy of this amended paragraph is attached as Appendix I.

Please amend the specification by inserting the attached Sequence Listing after the claims and before the figures. The statement required by 37 CFR §1.821(f) is also attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis Corporation Patent and Trademark Dept. 564 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ 07901-1027

Geoffrey M. Karny

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 31,382 (301) 258-4640

Date: March 30, 2001

APPENDIX I

This application claims the benefit under 35 USC §119(e) of the following United States provisional patent application: Provisional Application serial number to be assigned, filed March 30, 2000, as U.S. Application No. 09/539,248, for "Selectable Marker Genes," and subject to a Petition for Conversion to Provisional Application, filed November 16, 2000. The disclosure of this application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.